

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02

IO-13 AF-10 /101 W

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R 201925Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4959

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1594

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GY, US

SUBJECT: GUYANA-US RELATIONS; A GOG PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF
POLITICAL REALITIES

REF: GEORGETOWN 1578

SUMMARY: THE JULY 10 ARTICLE BY MOHAMED HAMALUDIN
(REFTEL PARAS 3-4) WENT BEYOND A DESCRIPTION OF THE
HISTORY AND PROBLEMS OF US-GOG RELATIONS. HALF OF
THE FULL-PAGE ARTICLE PROVIDED PARAMETERS FOR THE
GUYANA-US RELATIONSHIP, AND APPEARS TO HAVE CONTAINED
SIGNALS TO BOTH THE GUYANESE PUBLIC AND TO THE US.
THE ESSENCE OF THE OVERALL MESSAGE IS THAT
GUYANA SHOULD HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE GOG
WOULD WELCOME US ASSISTANCE AND RECOGNIZES
THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE BASED ON US INTERESTS.
THEREFORE, RECIPROCITY IS NECESSARY IN COOPERATION.
THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT ONE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GET
ALONG WITH NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY POWERFUL ONES
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SUCH AS THE US. THE MESSAGE TO THE US IS THAT GUYANA
HOPES FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND, IF THE US CAN
ACCEPT GUYANA'S INTERNAL "REVOLUTION" AND LEFTIST
TENDENCY, A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP CAN BE
WORKED OUT ALTHOUGH ON SOME MULTILATERAL ISSUES,
DIFFERENCES WILL OCCUR. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM FREQUENTLY USES MOHAMED HAMALUDIN, THE CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED GUYANA CHRONICLE, TO BRING IMPORTANT ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES BEFORE THE PUBLIC AND PRESENT GOG VIEWS. THE JULY 10 ARTICLE BY HAMALUDIN (REFTEL) WAS SUCH AN EFFORT AND THEREFORE IS WORTH SOME COMMENTARY. AFTER REVIEWING THE HISTORY AND PROBLEMS IN US-GOG RELATIONS AND INDICATING THAT RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED DURING RECENT MONTHS DUE TO EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES, BUT PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED ATTITUDES EVIDENT IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HAMALUDIN DEVOTED THE SECOND HALF OF HIS ARTICLE TO WHAT APPEAR TO BE PARAMETERS OF US-GOG RELATIONS. THUS, THE ARTICLE PROVIDES AN EXPLANATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR HOME CONSUMPTION CONCERNING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE US. A SECOND PURPOSE IS TO SENSITIZE THE US TO WHAT THE GOG BELIEVES TO BE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS IN US-GOG RELATIONS.

2. KEY POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

(A) TO HAVE ENDURING GOOD US-GOG RELATIONS WASHINGTON SHOULD ACCEPT THAT GUYANA CANNOT BE FIT INTO ANY PREVIOUSLY MANUFACTURED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL MOLD FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT.

(B) THE GUYANESE PEOPLE HAVE STRUGGLED AGAINST OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION AS SLAVES AND INDENTURED
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SERVANTS. ONLY NOW ARE THEY BEGINNING TO ASSERT THEMSELVES. (COMMENT: THE UNSAID MESSAGE HERE IS TO EXPECT OCCASIONAL IMMATURE BEHAVIOR.)

(C) THE UNITED STATES NOW HAS THE OPPORTUNITY OF SHOWING ITS GOOD INTENTIONS TO THIS POOR, STRUGGLING COUNTRY. IN DOING SO IT NEEDS ALSO TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS A LEFTIST TENDENCY IN GUYANA BORNE OUT OF THIS SAME HISTORY OF STRUGGLE AND WHICH CANNOT BE ERADICATED.

(D) OFFICIAL ANTAGONISM FROM THE UNITED STATES TOWARDS THIS LEFTIST TENDENCY WOULD ONLY SERVE TO RADICALIZE IT.

(E) THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY EMANATES FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONDITIONS JUST AS US FOREIGN POLICY IS INFLUENCED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

(F) SOME OF THE ACTIONS THE GOG WILL TAKE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WILL NO DOUBT RUN COUNTER TO AMERICAN EXPECTATIONS AND INTERESTS. HIGH ON THE LIST IS GUYANA'S AFRICAN POLICY AND ITS STRONG ANTI-APARTHEID PROFILE, WHICH HAS SEEN IT BOYCOTT SPORTING EVENTS, SEND CASH TO FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND VOTE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE

WITH THE MOST RADICAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

(G) WASHINGTON SHOULD ACCEPT THE BONA FIDES OF THE GUYANA REVOLUTION. ONE MUST OBSERVE THE DOMESTIC (GUYANESE) REACTION TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF LINKS WITH WASHINGTON AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUYANA REVOLUTION. ALREADY SOME MARXISTS INSIST THAT THE GROWING RAPPROCHEMENT IS ONLY PART OF (GOG) SWING TO THE RIGHT AND THAT THIS WILL MEAN EITHER HALTING THE REVOLUTION OR REVERSING IT ALTOGETHER.

(H) GUYANA WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND RECOGNIZES THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FOUNDED ON AMERICAN INTERESTS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GEORGETOWN 1594

(I) BIG POWERS ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC INTEREST IS TO HELP LIFT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OUT OF POVERTY.

(J) THERE ARE RECIPROCAL BENEFITS WHENEVER A BIG COUNTRY PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO A SMALL ONE, AND THIS NO DOUBT WILL BE THE CASE SHOULD THE AMERICANS RESPOND TO THE PRESSING NEEDS OF GUYANA'S ECONOMY.

3. COMMENT: THE ABOVE-LISTED GUYANESE "REALITIES" REVEAL A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE ATTITUDES AND CONCERNS OF BURNHAM AND MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THE ARTICLE JUSTIFIES THE GOG'S ATTITUDINAL TURNABOUT VIS-A-VIS THE US WHILE

OBSCURING THE FACT THAT THE GOG HAS CHANGED ITS
ATTITUDE. ITS EMPHASIS ON "RECIPROCITY"SETS THE
STAGE FOR JUSTIFYING AN ACCOMMODATION OF INTERESTS
WITH THE US. BY INSISTING THAT THE GUYANESE REVOLUTION
BE ACCEPTED, IT SAVES FACE. THE FLASHES OF ARROGANCE
IN THE ARTICLE ARE ALSO TYPICAL OF BURNHAM'S ATTITUDE,
BUT THE THRUST OF THE ARTICLE REVELAS THAT IF GUYANESE
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EGO AND PRIDE CAN BE LEFT INTACT, MUCH ROOM IS LEFT
FOR PRAGMATIC MANEUVERING.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

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